

# FRACTIONAL CURRENCY COLLECTORS BOARD

## Fall 2017

The Holiday season is upon us and I want to take this opportunity to wish you happiness and good luck in seeking attractive fractional notes. Also, try and interest children and grandchildren in our hobby or there will be no one to continue custody of our interest in history as demonstrated by our notes.

I was amazed to see a magnifying glass with its cardboard case "to be used with Heath's counterfeit detector" sell at the Eric P. Newman sale for \$10,200. That having being said, look for our newsletters to be enshrined in the Newman Portal. They were able to enter our articles without encroaching on the privacy of members personal information. Look for them soon at <https://nnp.wustl.edu/>. We will be holding back the latest 3 years of newsletters so only FCCB members will have them. As we roll another year forward, we'll submit the issues for the 4<sup>th</sup> year back so as to be included on the portal.

Also rolling out beginning in 2018 is a new dues structure. Our goal is to hold the line on membership cost by providing the newsletter via e-mail to all new members and existing members that select this option. Only existing members will be able to continue to receive mailed paper copies. However, in doing so they will also see their membership fee rise to keep pace with the growing printing and postage costs. This is in keeping with decisions made at the Kansas City meeting last summer and discussed in our prior newsletter.

This may be a good time as any to take advantage of very favorable prices to purchase fractional material and fill some of the holes in your collection or possibly upgrade some notes. The current prices seem to be fairly attractive. Watch the upcoming F.U.N. Show auction January 4<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> to see if this holds true. Also be wary of paying really high prices for common super graded material. As people submit fractional notes for slabbing, I think we will see there are enough high grade common notes to go around at reasonable prices.

FCCB's focus for 2018 will be to grow our membership by getting more people interested in our slice of numismatic collecting. While placing ads and articles in other publications raises awareness, there's nothing better than a personal touch and our own enthusiasm to help spark an interest in someone else. So we're asking every member to seriously look into offering to give a talk or host a table at a local coin show. We will gladly provide presentation material, newsletters, membership forms and some posters of fractional currency to give-away. Member Dick Punchard recently did just this and it resulted in a couple new members. Jerry Fochtman is already booked to speak at 3 different shows in 2018. So if you can help, contact Jerry and he'll work with you to get you what you need to promote FCCB and fractional currency.

Finally, on a sad note, November 15<sup>th</sup> we lost our hobby's most celebrated centenarian, Eric P. Newman. He was a noted author, collector and philanthropist. Mr. Newman passed away at 106. Those of us who had met and talked with him, even sought his advice in researching a topic, feel a great loss. If you'd like to learn more about the many things Eric Newman touched in his long life, simply google his name and read some of the many articles.

Sincerely,

*Bill Brandimore*

FCCB Newsletter  
c/o Jerry Fochtman  
2818 Mountain Green Trail  
Kingwood, TX 77345  
(281) 361-8948  
[newsletter@fccb.info](mailto:newsletter@fccb.info)

# The M.O.O.N. Show

By

*Dick Punchard*

The semi-annual Minnesota Organization Of Numismatics' (M.O.O.N.) Coin and Currency Show was held in Minneapolis at the Earle Brown Heritage Center, October 13-15, 2017. The show's director was kind enough to provide me with a display table where I could promote the collecting of Postage and Fractional currency as well as our club, F.C.C.B.

Thanks to Jerry Fochtman, who sent informational materials to help with promoting F.C.C.B. and the collecting/study of postage and fractional currency. The materials included a large poster, copies of the Spring 2017 newsletter, F.C.C.B. club information brochure and application forms. Jerry also provided some well-traveled examples of fractional to give-out to any interested youth.

On Saturday, I was invited to speak to a group of Boy Scouts on the subject of Fractional Currency, it's history and why it should be collected. The talk was well received and hopefully some of the boys will respond to the free Youth Membership offered by our club.

Overall, the show was well attended and several membership forms were passed out along with information on the club. There will be a future show in March 2018. I'll be using the materials I have left for that show to continue helping to promote our club and the field of Postage and Fractional Currency.



**\*\*Editor's Note:** Dick started collecting postage and fractional currency in 1963 with the aid of Matt Rother's "little black book" on the subject.



## Member's Trading Post

<p>Looking for Graphics of Satirical Notes and other Rare Fractional Items for Historical Digital Collection Effort.</p> <p>Jerry Fochtman <a href="mailto:jerry@fochtman.us">jerry@fochtman.us</a></p>	<p>Researcher/Collector interested in ALL fractionals with inverted or mirrored plate numbers. If you have one (for sale or research) please e-mail <a href="mailto:riconio@yahoo.com">riconio@yahoo.com</a> or call 818/591-2326.</p> <p>Thanks – Rick Melamed.</p>	<p>Want lists serviced and auction representation with over 40 years of Fractional experience</p> <p>Mike Marchioni <a href="mailto:Marchion@ETSU.EDU">Marchion@ETSU.EDU</a> 423/439-5362</p>
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Current FCCB Members are welcome to submit requests for the Trading Post!

## FCCB Contacts

**LOOK!** New E-Mail Addresses!

President	Bill Brandimore	<a href="mailto:president@fccb.info">president@fccb.info</a>	740-392-5685
Vice-President	Benny Bolin	<a href="mailto:vice-president@fccb.info">vice-president@fccb.info</a>	214-692-0613
Treasurer/Membership	David Stitely	<a href="mailto:membership@fccb.info">membership@fccb.info</a>	610-565-6189
Newsletter	Jerry Fochtman	<a href="mailto:newsletter@fccb.info">newsletter@fccb.info</a>	281-361-8948

## New Membership Promotion

In support of our new membership efforts beginning in 2018, well-known dealer Tom Denly is offering new FCCB members a special \$10.00 discount towards the purchase of supplies or fractional notes. Upon receipt of a new membership application and payment, David Stitely, Membership Chair, will be sending the new member this special discount coupon.



### SPECIAL \$10.00 DISCOUNT Extended to New Members of F.C.C.B.!

As a new member of the Fractional Currency Collector's Board, Denly's would like to welcome you to the field of collecting, study and educating others on the history of Postage and Fractional Currency. As a part of our support for the hobby, Denly's would like to extend to you a special \$10.00 discount on any purchase of postage or fractional currency or currency holders from our extensive inventory. Simply include this card, properly endorsed by FCCB's membership chairman acknowledging your new membership.

Presented to: \_\_\_\_\_

FCCB Membership Chair: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(Note: Discount coupon expires 6-months from date of issue.)

[www.Denlys.com](http://www.Denlys.com)

F.C.C.B. wishes to extend to Tom Denly our gratitude for his long time support of the field of postage and fractional currency, and his gracious offer in support of our membership drive.

Don't forget to take a look at Denly's extensive inventory, for you may find that one specific note you're wanting for your collection!



# August 29<sup>th</sup>, 1862 - The NEW Postage Currency

By

Rick Melamed

From the cover of *The Philadelphia Inquirer* on Friday, August 29<sup>th</sup>, 1862 – the headlines says it all!

# The Philadelphia Inquirer.

CIRCULATION OVER 55,000. PHILADELPHIA, FRIDAY, AUGUST 29, 1862. PRICE TWO CENTS.

## PROGRESS OF THE WAR

Mighty Important from Washington.

IMPORTANT FROM THE SEAT OF WAR.

A Battle Yesterday at Bull Run.

THE ENEMY HOLD THE RAILROAD BRIDGE.

A BATTLE, ALSO, AT KILGORE STATION.

Hooker's Division Engaged and Drives the Enemy Back to Manassas.

OUR LOSSES THREE HUNDRED.

The Enemy's Strategic Movement Unfolded.

The Confederate Army Massed at White Plains, in Fauquier County.

THE ENEMY IN A TRAP.

...the Washington Star of last Evening.

...turn out that the commanding board...

...day yesterday by persons in Fairfax...

...was that of an engagement between...

...of the Rebels, considerably outnumbered...

...at Bull Run, the contest being for the...

...of the railroad bridge at that point...

...where the Rebels obtained possession of...

...albeit, but have every reason to think...

...losses must have disclosed them from it...

...early hour this morning. Last night he...

...expected to be able to do so. Our in-

...is that his loss throughout the day's skir-

...was inconsiderable.

...night engagement of yesterday, however...

...of Hooker's division, with a consider-

...able force at Kilgore Station.

...grazes that the movement of the enemy on...

...from the south bank of the Rappahannock...

...Jefferson, in the direction of Little...

...ington, (which the Star described at length...

...and since) was actually designed to throw...

...out the Rebel army across the Rappa-

...hannock at the base of the Blue Ridge. This was...

...and it is this morning ascertained here that...

...yesterday morning, probably, for the most...

...part at or near White Plains, in the val-

...ley of the Blue Ridge and Bull Run rang-

...some miles northeast of Warrenton.

...early hour yesterday morning Hooker's...

...division despatched to that point by...

...on account of the star, there of the...

...snow came up with a large Rebel force...

...Station, with whom he had a...

...engagement, lasting nearly all day. In...

...of it Hooker drove the enemy step by...

...to the vicinity of Manassas Junction.

...losses in killed, wounded and missing in...

...engagement there was about three hun-

...dred. It is said to regard the affair as a...

...success.

## UNITED STATES ONE DOLLAR NOTE.

THE NEW POSTAGE CURRENCY.

## THE REBEL ATTACK ON TWO RAILROAD TRAINS.

After traveling some eight or ten miles we began to meet with many stragglers, who were apparently in considerable of a hurry to reach some point further North than they were then; next we came upon some twenty or thirty cavalry men. At this time the thought occurred to us that there was the better part of valor so, rigging up our steel, we patiently awaited the progress of events, at the same time believing that a panic was in progress; future events, however, proved us to be mistaken in that latter particular.

While mentally studying what was to be our next move, we cried, riding quietly towards us, a Squire, a Chaplain, both of whom we knew, together with some dozen others mounted. Turning, we rode back with them, and from them learned the following is reference to the rumors...

## FULL PARTICULARS OF THE ATTACK ON MANASSAS.

This brigade was a small, weak one, not numbering over 1500 effective men. Its loss at Culpeper Mill was very severe, and in the present affair it was almost without officers. Its loss is not known, but is pretty severe.

## GALLANT BRAVERY OF OUR TROOPS.

We hear that the Postmaster at Fairfax Court House arrived here at an early hour this morning, having packed up his goods and mail and left last evening, in apprehension of a Confederate raid upon that point. He saw a bright light in that direction after he left, and thinks some buildings had been fired there.

## OUR ALEXANDRIA LETTER.

### REBELS HOLD MANASSAS.

New Jersey Brigade Hemmed In and Part Captured.

### LIST OF THE WOUNDED.

### FRIGHTFUL RAILROAD COLLISIONS.

### ARTILLERY OF THE ENEMY.

### ARRIVAL OF REFUGEES.

## OUR HARRISBURG LETTER.

A Military Bureau - Adjutant-General Thomas - Departure of Regiments.

HARRISBURG, August 29, 1862.

A new Department has been instituted here called the Military Bureau, to which has been assigned the appointment of Dr. William Hargrove, and Commissioners for the draft, and all business connected with the enrollment of citizens subject to military duty. Hon. ALEXANDER T. McCLURE, of Franklin, has accepted an appointment as aid to the Governor with the rank of Colonel. He is also acting as Chief of the Military Bureau.

Adjutant-General THOMAS arrived here to-day from Washington, to confer with the State authorities on military affairs.

Three new regiments have received their arms and uniforms and will be sent off to-day.

One-hundred-and-thirty-sixth Regiment (Colonel) - THOMAS M. BAYARD, Pittsburgh.

Lieutenant-Colonel - Isaac Wright, Allegheny county.

Major - Vacant.

The companies are commanded as follows: - Allegheny county - Captains Isaac Wright, W. Lammie, Thomas M. Bayard and E. J. Seibert.

Crawford - Captain Chapman.



# Fractional Envelope From The National Bank of Chambersburg

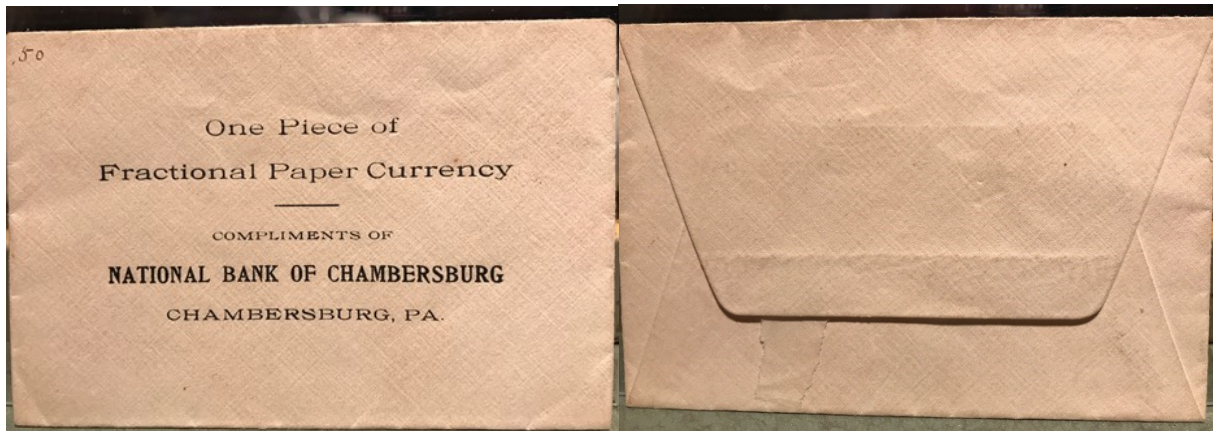
By

*Rick Melamed*

The National Bank of Chambersburg has had a long successful history.

We have a neat piece of fractional ephemera to bring to light. The image is a period bank envelope from National Bank of Chambersburg, PA (most likely from 1864 when the bank was rebuilt after the original building was destroyed during the Civil War). The envelope states:

## **One Piece of Fractional Paper Currency Compliments of the National Bank of Chambersburg**



### **WHY WAS THE PROMOTIONAL FRACTIONAL ENVELOPE MADE?**

Many times when we are presented with interesting ephemera, we often ask ourselves why was something undertaken. With no concrete information, we are left to ponder the reason for a specific action. Perhaps it was a Christmas gift for bank customers or a marketing promotion accentuating the bank's new name and location (more on their fascinating history below). Maybe it was a small token of appreciation for a patron opening a new account.

There is a pencil notation ".50" suggesting a 50¢ fractional was housed in the envelope. This is pure conjecture, but it's not hard to conceive that the larger the new account the larger the fractional. Smaller accounts received a 10¢ note, medium sized account received a 25¢ note...and so on. We need to point out that the envelope stated "One Piece of Fractional Currency." During that period there were fractional gold coins, 3¢ silver pieces and postage stamps used in commerce. The bank spelled out exactly what the recipient was getting. There was a good chance that the image of US Treasurer Francis Spinner, the father of fractional currency, would be looking at you as the note was being removed from the envelope.

### **CHAMBERSBURG HISTORY:**

Reprinted with permission from Mark Hotz \*:

*Chambersburg, Pa., is the seat of Franklin County, and is located roughly 30 miles north of Hagerstown, Md., and about an equal distance west of Gettysburg, Pa. The town is named for Benjamin Chambers, a Scots-Irish immigrant who started a grist mill in the vicinity circa 1730.*



## Underground Railroad

*By 1859, Chambersburg was a stop on the Underground Railroad. Abolitionist John Brown stayed in an upstairs room at Mary Ritner's boarding house between June and October 1859, while preparing for his raid on Harper's Ferry. Several of his fellow raiders stayed in the house as well, and four of them escaped capture and briefly visited the house after the raid. The house still stands at 225 East King St.*

## City of Chambersburg Under Siege During the Civil War

*During the American Civil War on Oct. 10, 1862, Confederate Maj. Gen. J.E.B. Stuart, with 1,800 cavalymen, raided Chambersburg, destroying \$250,000 of railroad property and taking 500 guns, hundreds of horses, and at least eight young black men and boys. During the early days of the 1863 Gettysburg Campaign, a Virginia cavalry brigade under Brig. Gen. Albert G. Jenkins occupied the town and burned several warehouses and Cumberland Valley Railroad structures. However, it was the great raid of 1864, and the subsequent burning of Chambersburg by Confederate forces, that is most remembered today. When Chambersburg residents learned on the morning of July 30, 1864, that yet another Confederate cavalry raid was approaching their city, most people were not overly concerned. Rebels had occupied the city in October 1862 and again in June 1863, soon before the Battle of Gettysburg. On both occasions Southern troops had behaved reasonably well.*

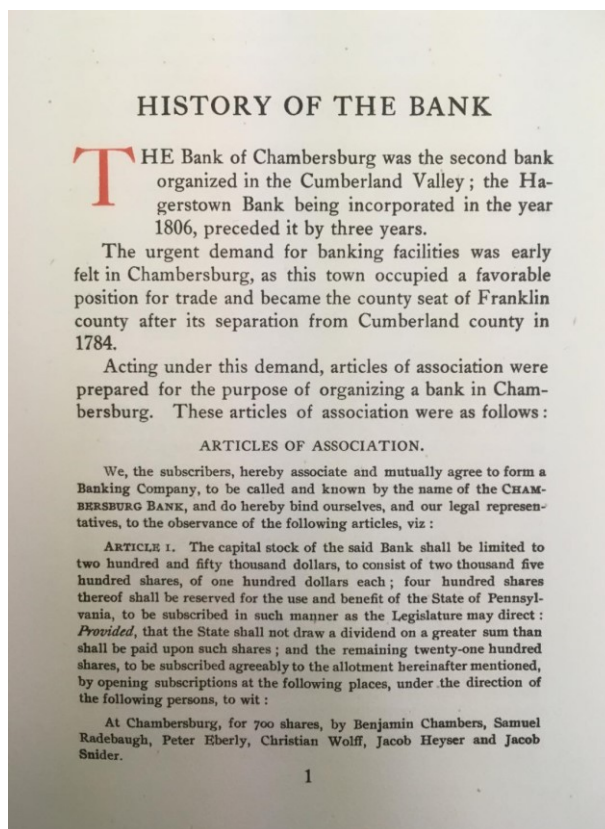
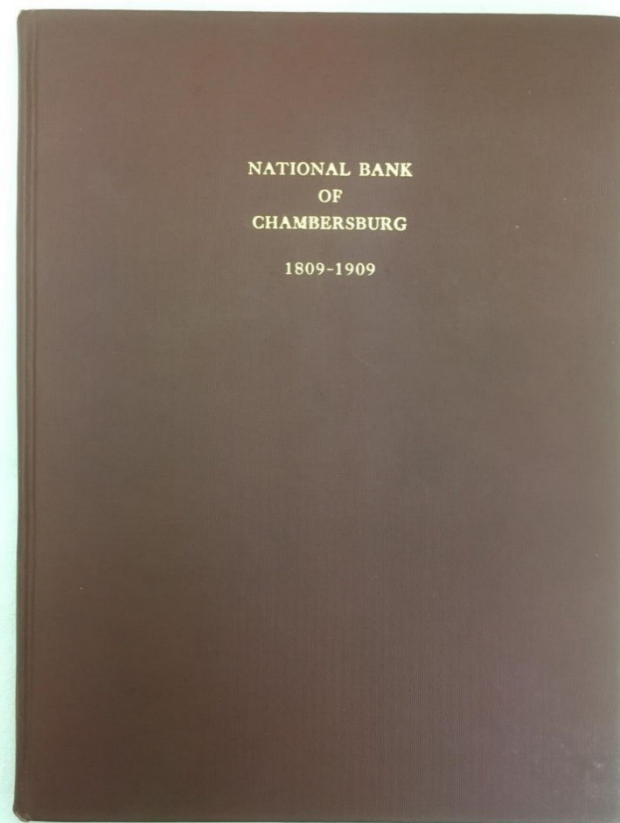
*In retaliation for Union forces' burning and looting of property in Virginia's Shenandoah Valley, Confederate Gen. Jubal Early determined to raid lightly defended Chambersburg and burn the town. First though, he would give its residents the chance to hand over \$100,000 in gold or \$500,000 in federal currency to compensate people in the valley for the loss of their homes. The Confederate raid would be led by Gen. John McCausland, and consist of his own brigade and that of Bradley Johnson; perhaps 2,800 men and four cannons in all. McCausland assembled his force in the panhandle of West Virginia, and then crossed the Potomac at McCoy's Ford on the morning of July 29, 1864. In the end the Confederates burned over 550 building in the town including The Bank of Chambersburg.*



Bank of Chambersburg after Confederate Rebels burned down the building in 1864. While the bank was destroyed, the owners moved their funds to safety and rebuilt the bank later that year and renamed themselves The National Bank of Chambersburg. The bank was able to obtain a national bank note charter (593) and remained prosperous well beyond the national currency era.

## BANK SELF PUBLISHES THEIR OWN HISTORY IN 1909

The bank published a handsome leather bound book commemorating its centennial in 1909. Shown is the cover and first page. The book also contains information of the various bank names over the years.



The book also contains a 1909 image of the bank as it appeared back then.



Not contained in the book, but discovered on an old postcard is a drawing of the bank's interior. While it seems strange why anyone would print a postcard of a bank, it should be noted that 100 years ago, postcards were printed for nearly every conceivable theme especially with large buildings or commercial interests. It was a way to state, "Here we are; we are a successful business."



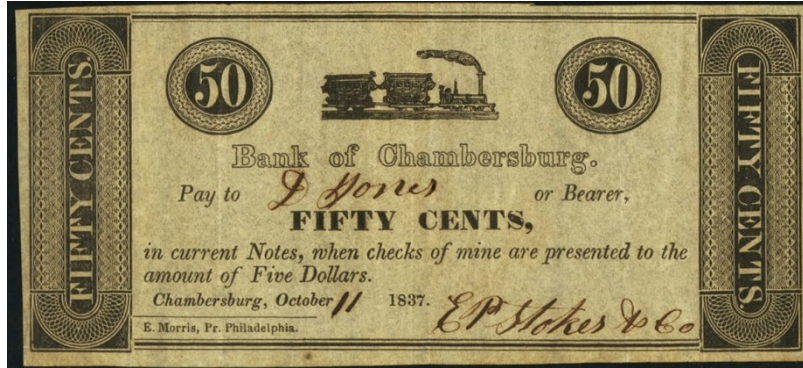
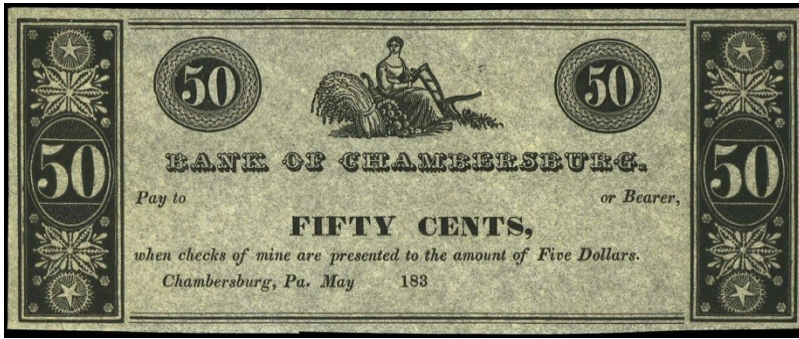
## CHAMBERSBURG OBSOLETE AND NATIONAL BANKNOTES

The contextual reference of obsolete and national bank notes speaks to significance of the bank in financial circles.

The 5¢ (1862), two 50¢ (1837 & 183x), \$1 (1861) and \$10 (1857) obsolete notes entitled "Bank of Chambersburg" fits into the 1814-1864 timeline of the bank names. Note on the \$1 obsolete, the image of Pennsylvania's greatest son, Ben Franklin.





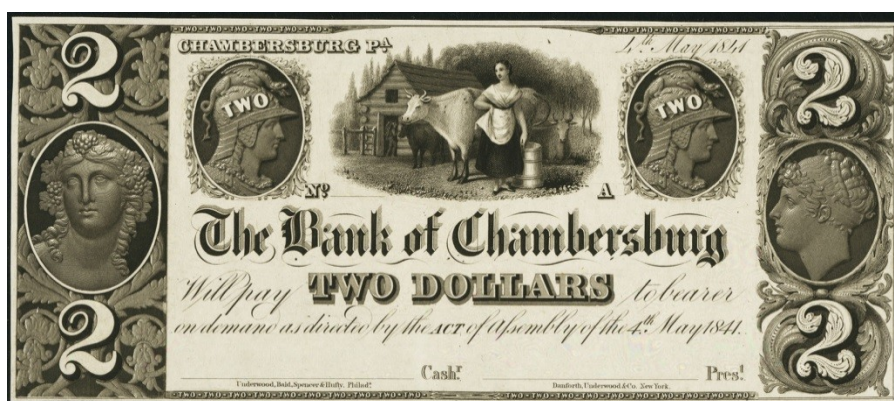




A rare undated Bank of Chambersburg proof (Haxby 60-G20) was made before 1864.



This undated \$2 proof from 1841 contains beautiful engravings.



While the \$100 proof (G60 Hooper 59-14) is undated, we can assume it was made in 1841 based on the similarity of the \$2 proof shown above.





The following are common 1902 and 1929 NBNs from Chambersburg, now known as "The National Bank of Chambersburg."



\*Mark Hotz had written a well-researched article about history of Chambersburg. It was published in Bank Note Reporter on August 31, 2011. Here is the link:



<http://www.numismaster.com/ta/numis/Article.jsp?ad=article&ArticleId=23235>

Thanks to Heritage for access to auction archives, Ronn Palm for bringing the fractional envelope to light and to mark Hotz for the history of Chambersburg.



# FRANCIS SPINNER'S 1868 BILL AT THE POSH WILLARD HOTEL IN WASHINGTON, DC

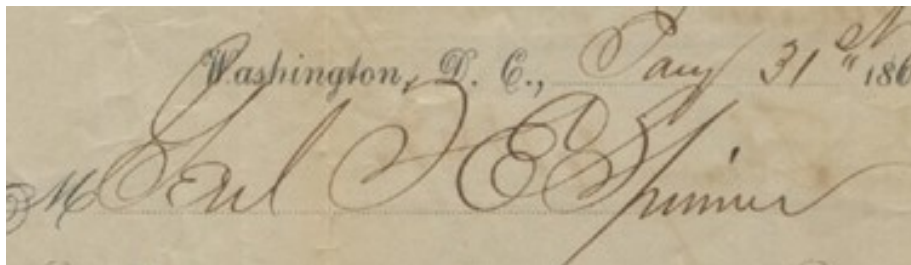
By

*Rick Melamed*

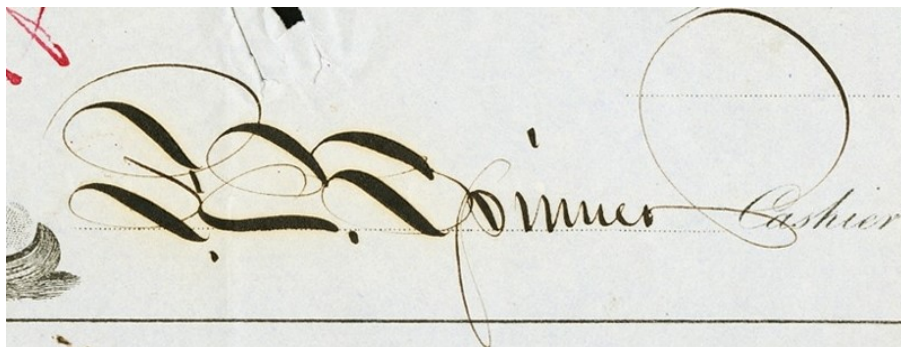
From Eric Jackson's collection is a hotel bill for Francis E. Spinner at The Willard Hotel in Washington, DC. Dated May 31<sup>st</sup> 1868, this was the time period that Spinner served at the US Treasury. Being a resident of Herkimer County, NY; Spinner would've needed lodgings in the nation's capital to perform his duties. The location was ideal for Spinner, it was a short walk to the US Treasury building (1/3<sup>rd</sup> of a mile). Colloquially known as "The Willard", the hotel was built in 1816; first as a conjoined hotel made of 6 row houses and then remodeled significantly in 1864 to what we see today. The Willard Hotel was and is still considered today a luxurious upscale DC boutique hotel. While the hotel has been in disrepair a couple of times over the past 150 years, it has been lovingly restored. There is an intimate connection with the hotel considering it retains many of the original elements. Presidents, Royalty, dignitaries, celebrities and high-ranking Treasury employees all shared in its setting.

Spinner settled his account for the week for \$404.25. The hotel was \$54 per night; a tidy sum for 1868. No doubt the Treasurer had an elegant suite...nothing too good for fractional's founding father!! The weekly cost of sizable suite at The Willard in 2017 would be a cool \$28,000.00. Wonder if Spinner's room came with breakfast?

Spinner's autograph was the most famous of his generation. It was widely sought from an adoring public and undoubtedly there were several who tried their best to emulate. That includes the hotel clerk at The Willard who did his/her best to copy the flourishes of his signature. There are some interesting similarities like the ornate capital "F", "E" and "S". The elongated "p" and the "inner" are also similar in their style to Spinner. However, the angles are completely off so it is not Spinner's signature on the hotel bill. The clerk must have practiced it a few times since Spinner's name is written with a lot more care and attention to detail than the rest of the bill. No doubt to make an impression to Spinner

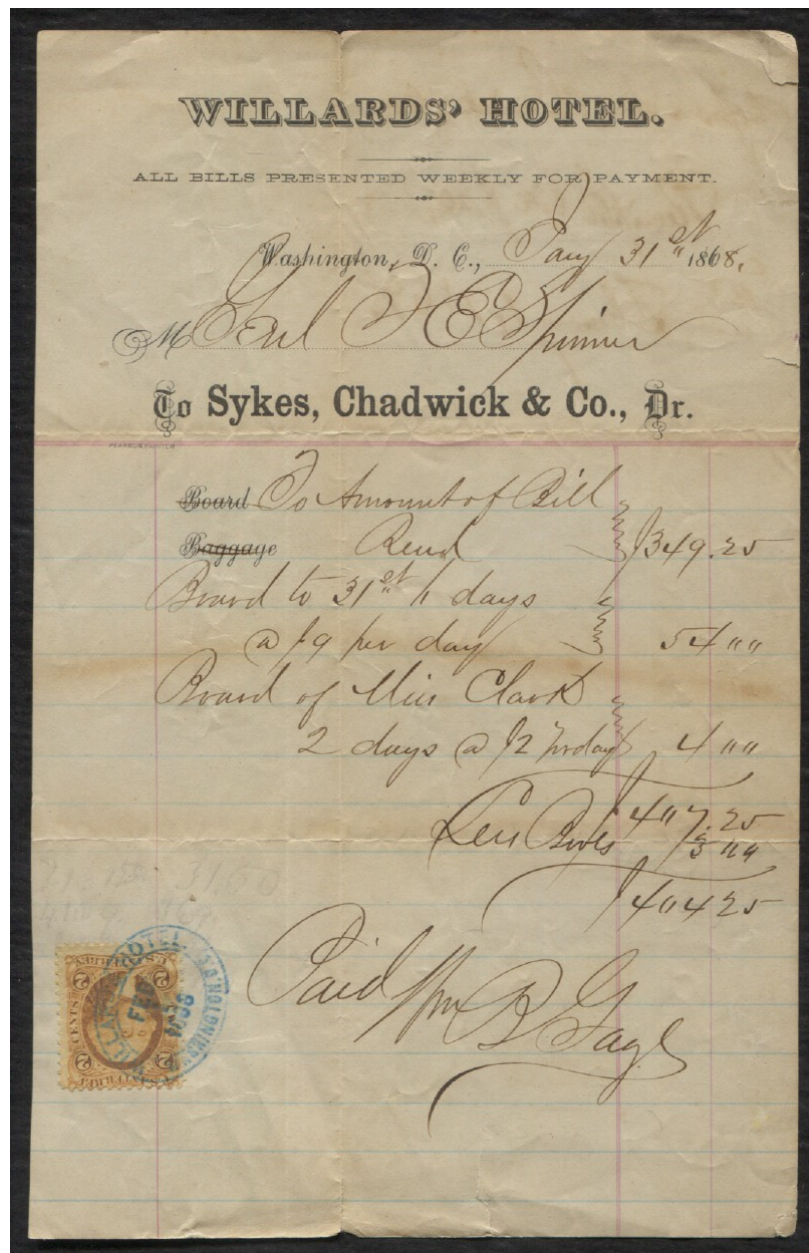


Willard Hotel clerk's fancily writing Spinner's name on a hotel bill



Actual Spinner Signature (from Mohawk Valley check)





From the Hotels' website today tells of a rich past:

***The Willard Hotel - Our Historic Washington DC Hotel, A Tradition Unlike Any Other***

A most celebrated historic Washington DC hotel, the Willard InterContinental Washington, has been the focal point for elegant dinners, meetings, and gala social events for more than 150 years. An institution, this grand Washington DC historic hotel has hosted almost every U.S. president since Franklin Pierce in 1853. On August 28, 1963, the Reverend Martin Luther King finished his famous "I Have A Dream" speech while a guest at the Willard. Other notable guests have included Charles Dickens, Buffalo Bill, David Lloyd George, P.T. Barnum, Lord and Lady Napier, and countless others. Walt Whitman mentioned the hotel in his works; and Mark Twain penned two books here in the early 1900s. Throughout the ages, no phrase has raised eyebrows like "I'm staying at the Willard."

Here are images of the hotel inside and out from today and from yesteryear.



The Willard Lobby Today



Vintage Photo of the Willard Lobby

We can ascertain that Spinner liked his creature comforts. He began life from very modest beginnings. As the eldest son of an immigrant minister with a large family, he became a successful businessman and then politician. Spinner amassed personal wealth and liked to live in the style he worked so hard to achieve. We can easily envision Spinner having a conversation over dinner with Chief Justice Salmon Chase or even President Lincoln in the hotel dining room

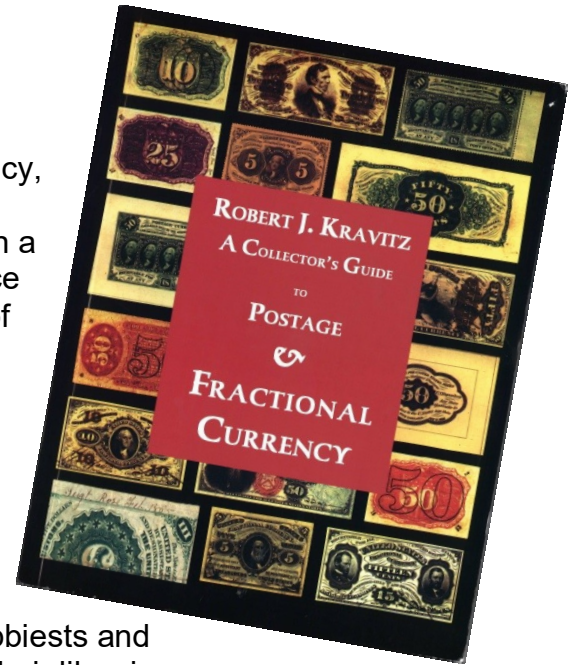


**A Cache of New,  
Original  
Copies Discovered!**

## **Rob Kravitz's Original Landmark Book on Postage and Fractional Currency!**

Rob Kravitz, renown expert on Postage and Fractional Currency, published a landmark book on the subject that provided the hobbist a wealth of information on this area of numismatics in a clear his consise style. The 1<sup>st</sup> edition of this popular reference material was published in 2002 and has long since been out of print. Those that have a copy continue to use it as a valuable reference source, making it not easy to find at a reasonable price in the used book market.

However, recently a sealed box of original copies from the printer has been uncovered and are being offered here at a deep discounted price of just **\$15.00** each (plus \$5 to cover shipping/handling). This represents a significant bargain from it's original \$29.99 price! They're being made available to hobbists and researchers that lost-out in adding this important resource to their libraries.



There is a very limited number of these new copies available, and when they're gone...they're gone. At that point if you want a copy for your library you'll have to search the used book market for a copy, at a higher price. So don't delay, order yours today! Send your name, address, and payment for \$20.00 right away to:

**Rob Kravitz  
Postage/Fractional Currency Book  
14305 Cedar Springs Dr.  
Town & Country, MO 63017-5732**



# NEWSLETTER SWITCHING FROM PAPER TO DIGITAL

By

*Jerry Fochtman*

Shortly I'll begin my 15<sup>th</sup> year serving as FCCB's newsletter editor. It's the reproduction, packaging and mailing of our newsletter that is our club's most expensive activity. Unfortunately, we've almost reached the point of having to increase our membership fee to simply cover the increased cost of the materials and postage of our newsletter so we don't face negative cash-flow. I don't want us to have to pay higher membership fees if there is an alternative for providing a quality newsletter. I've investigated using bulk mail, media rate or pre-sort mailing to help reduce costs, but none of these approaches would provide any long-term benefit given the number of pieces we mail annually. I've also looked at reducing the size format, which would result in more pages (e.g. weight) but smaller packaging. However, feedback I've received indicates people prefer the current size format.

The U.S. Postal Service has already been dropping 'hints' that there will be another postage hike in the very near future, along with possibly changing to automatic annually increase in postage rates based upon some measure of inflation and cost increases. If this occurs, we would have to raise membership fees well above any announced annual postage increase so as to try and not have annual membership fee increases as well.

So for FCCB I'm going to take the approach that a number of other similar clubs have done and move to an e-Newsletter. In addition to reducing costs so we can use funds for education and recruiting, web links will be such that you can simply click on them to get to the website outlined, and the images and graphics will be in original color and not half-tone black and white.

Several of us have been discussing this over a few months, and beginning in 2018, all new memberships (annual or lifetime) and any prior members returning after a lapse in membership will only be eligible to receive the e-Newsletter. Only current existing members will have the option of switching to the e-Newsletter or to continue to receive a mailed printed version. However, in choosing to continue with the printed version, these members will be subject to fee increases to cover increases in cost for printing, packaging and mailing their copy of the newsletters. Once an existing member switches to the e-Newsletter they will not be able to switch back. Ideally all existing members will elect to switch to the e-Newsletter.

Enclosed in this newsletter will be an election form specific for your type of membership. If you are a Lifetime member and want to switch to the E-Newsletter, simply fill-out the form and mail it in, or you can save a stamp and simply e-mail myself or Dave Stitely a note letting us know you want to switch to e-Newsletter. Please put "FCCB e-Newsletter" as the subject of your e-mail. Unless you tell us different, the e-mail address you used for the note will be used for the e-Newsletter.

If your membership is annual, be sure to check the newsletter envelop mailing label to see if your membership has expired in 2017. You will then know whether or not you'll need to send in a payment to renew your membership with your election form.

In ALL cases, if mailing in an election form, be sure to Carefully **PRINT** your e-mail address clearly on the form. We are not pharmacists used to reading a medical doctor's scratch writing and we certainly want to get the e-mail address recorded correctly.

## Regulators support stamp price increases above inflation rate

By Hope Yen  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Seeking to bolster the ailing U.S. Postal Service, federal regulators moved on Friday to allow bigger jumps to stamp prices beyond the rate of inflation, a move that could eventually add millions more dollars to companies' shipping rates from prescription drugs to magazine subscriptions.

The Postal Regulatory Commission announced the decision as part of a much-anticipated, 10-year review of the Postal Service's stamp rates. It concluded

that the post office's mounting red ink from declining mail volume and costs from its pension and health care obligations hamper the ability to provide reliable mail and package service in the digital age.

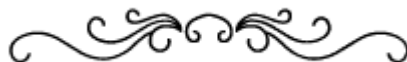
The commission's plan would give the Postal Service freedom to raise the price of its first-class stamp, now at 49 cents, by an additional 2 percent above the rate of inflation to help avoid bankruptcy and make needed multi-billion dollar investments, such as upgraded information technology and new

*Businesses continues on B7*



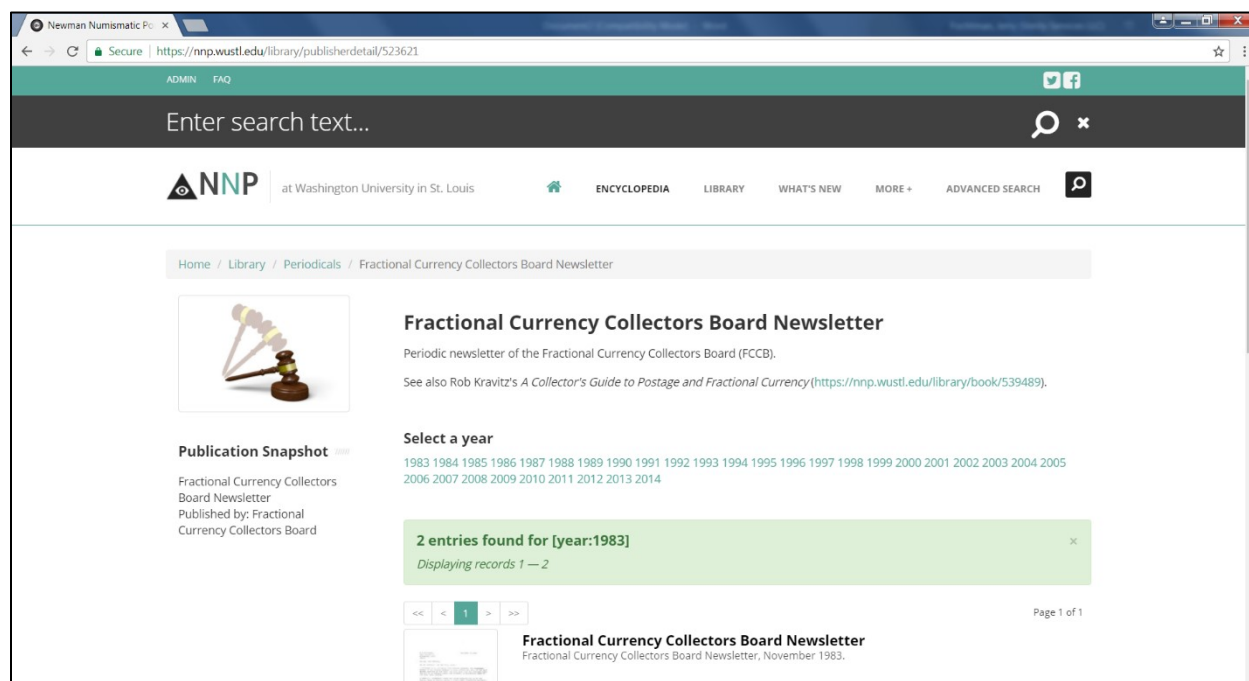
The e-Newsletter will be sent from our new e-mail account: [newsletter@fccb.info](mailto:newsletter@fccb.info). So you may need to take steps in your e-mail account so messages from this or any other e-mail ending in "@fccb.info" so messages from these addresses tied to our club are not treated as SPAM.

Finally, your e-mail address will be treated as confidential information and will only be used for FCCB-related business. We will not publish, give-out or sell any members e-mail information, as I'm sure you're like me and tired of receiving tons of junk e-mail.



## F.C.C.B NEWSLETTER ARCHIVE NOW ON NEWMAN NUMISMATIC PORTAL!

The complete archive of the Fractional Currency Collectors Board newsletters, from the initial founding of our group in 1983 up through 2014, is now available to everyone via the Newman Numismatic Portal. To simplify trying to enter a specific 'cryptic' web address, simply do a Google search for "Newman Numismatic Portal". Once on the site, in the "Enter search text..." field near the top of the screen type in "Fractional Currency Collectors Board" and hit enter. This will bring-up:



All membership lists that were in the newsletters have been removed to prevent someone from harvesting member addresses and using them for mailing ads/etc.

Thanks go to Benny Bolin for providing material from Milt Friedberg's papers and to Jerry Fochtman for organizing and digitizing everything and getting it submitted to the Newman Numismatic Foundation to be made available to others.



# CIVIL WAR PATRIOTIC ENVELOPE WITH POSTAGE CURRENCY NOTE

By

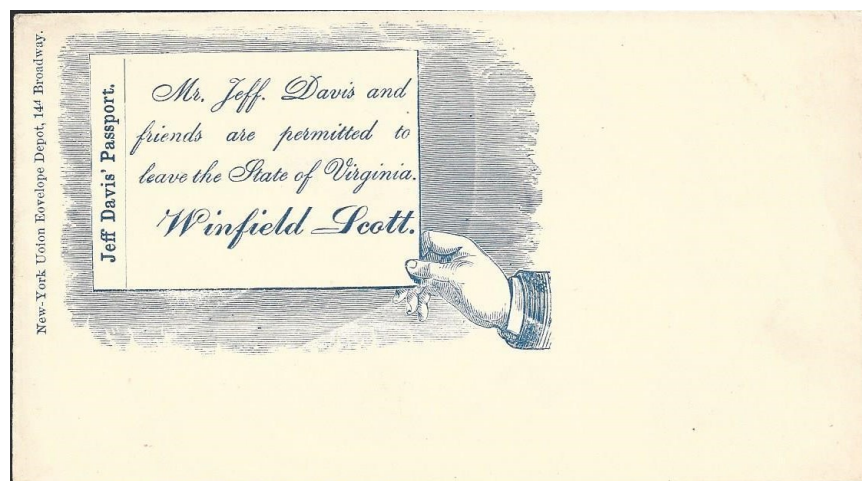
*Rick Melamed*

Shown below is interesting piece of ephemera affixed with a 5¢ postage currency note. The envelope is from the Civil War era (1861-1865) with the Great Seal of New Jersey. To the left of the image is the company that made the envelope... 'NEW YORK UNION ENVELOPE DEPOT, 144 BROADWAY'. On the right is an FR1230/31 5¢ postage currency note. It is impossible to know when the note was glued onto the envelope but considering the very emotional sentiments of the era, it is likely that the note was placed on the envelope during the Civil War to reinforce patriotic beliefs. Without saying anything overtly, there is no doubt a strong undercurrent at play.

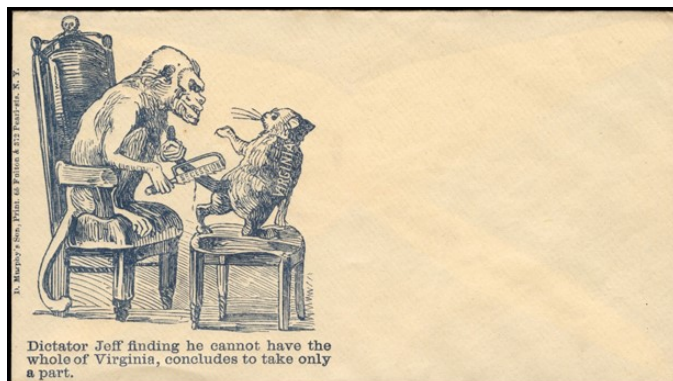
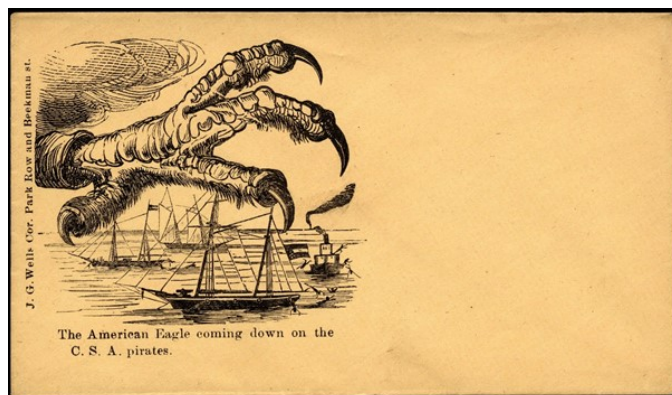
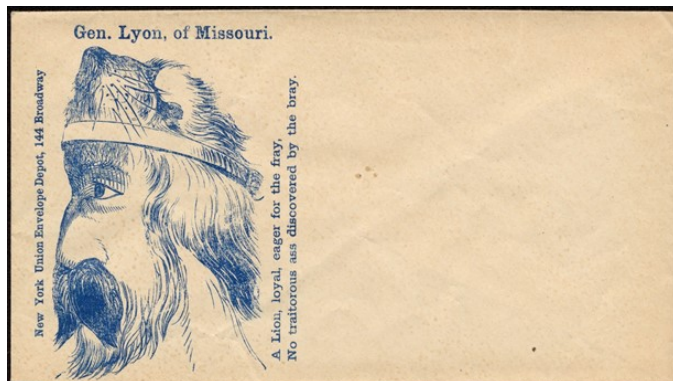


Research into patriotic envelopes made during the Civil War show that there was a cottage industry appealing to people's patriotism. There were quite a few examples made during the Civil War era that are unabashedly pro-Union. New York Union Envelope printed many envelopes in support of the Union. In the NY Historical Society archives, they have over 3,000 patriotic envelopes in their collection from various makers.

We have a few to showcase; the sentiments expressed are powerful reminders of the explosive emotions of the era.







The context of these patriotic envelopes reminds us of the very volatile and emotional subtext of the Civil War. A postage currency note in and of itself illicit very little emotional response today. But take that postage note and affix it to a jingoistic themed envelope and the meaning becomes much deeper and visceral. We need to remind ourselves the enormous toll the Civil War wrought. Not just of the 650,000+ lives lost<sup>1</sup>, but the deeply divided feelings that ran through the hearts and souls of every citizen in our great country; both southerners and northerners.

A special thanks to the New York Historical Society and their accessible archive made freely available in the pursuit of education and to Ronn Palm for the image of postage currency envelope. For more information on the Civil War era envelopes, please check out the NY Historical website. They have a fascinating collection that is well displayed, organized with high quality images.

<http://digitalcollections.nyhistory.org/>

<sup>1</sup> Ronn Palm, owner of the Civil War themed Ronn Palm Museum in Gettysburg and FCCB member, indicated that new information reveals that as many as 750,000 were lost



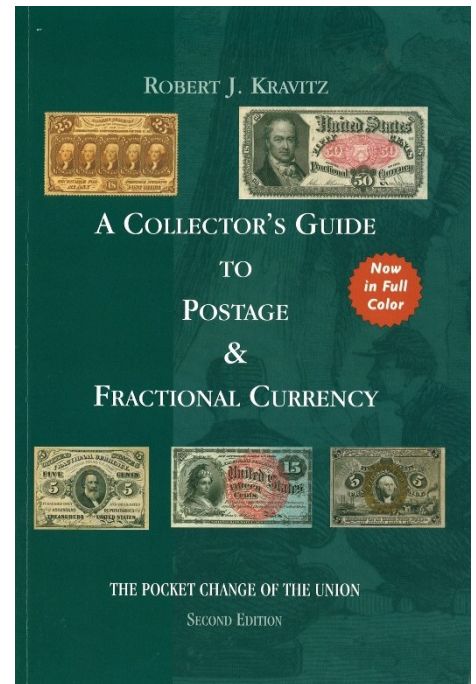
## SPECIAL PRICING for F.C.C.B. MEMBERS!

F.C.C.B. has been fortunate to acquire a small number of new copies of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition of Rob Kravitz's book titled "A Collector's Guide to Postage & Fractional Currency". This 2nd edition of Rob's book was published in 2012 and includes 20 pages of additional information not previously published! Furthermore, it's presented in FULL COLOR! There are 100s of colored images of high-quality notes and illustrations used throughout the book providing the viewer with a comprehensive look at how postage and fractional currency first appeared when it was originally issued over 155 years ago!

These books sell for upwards to \$49 and more! But as a member of FCCB, you can purchase your new copy of the latest book published specifically on the topic of postage and fractional currency for a special price of **\$30.00**, which includes shipping and handling (U.S. only - media mail)!

To get your copy before our limited supply is gone, send a check for \$30.00 made-out to F.C.C.B. along with your mailing address to:

**Dave Stitely  
P.O. Box 136  
Gradyville, PA 19039**



P.S. If you missed getting the long out-of-print 1<sup>st</sup> edition of this book for your research library, see the special offer elsewhere in this newsletter for obtaining a new copy from a recently discovered box of original books!





# UNTOLD SOLDIER'S STORY ON A FRACTIONAL NOTE

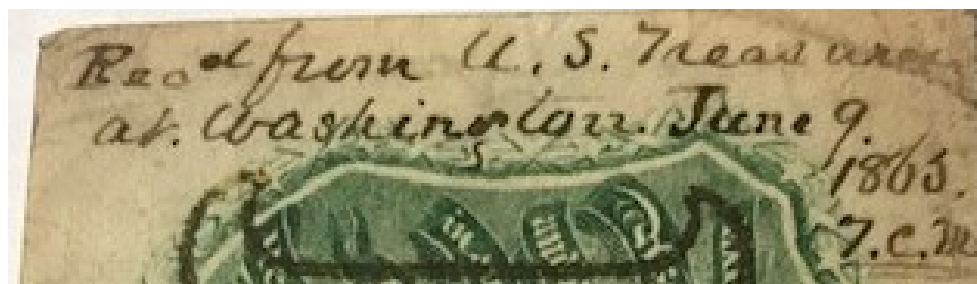
By

*Rick Melamed*

From fellow FCCBer Ronn Palm is another great fractional artifact from the Civil War. Ronn states that this note was received by a soldier and saved as a souvenir. The date certainly bears that out. On the left side of this Fr. 1244 back, 2<sup>nd</sup> issue 10¢ fractional is inscribed the following:

***Rec<sup>d</sup> from U.S. Treasury at Washington June 9, 1865...(initialed) T.C.M.***

Robert E. Lee surrendered on behalf of the Confederacy to Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox Courthouse on April 9, 1865. The hand written date on the note is shortly after the end of the Civil War. It is likely that this was in the final pay packet of a Union soldier. No clue who T.C.M. was; his identity will forever remain unknown. Memorializing his participation in the War is tantalizing since it raises so many questions that will never be answered. Who was T.C.M.? What was his rank? Where was he born? What battles did he fight in? What horrors and acts of bravery did he witness?



We are reminded yet again that fractional notes are often more than just an old piece of currency. They represent countless stories that weave a rich tapestry of the American experience. T.C.M. is long gone, but he left behind a footnote from a single page from the vast book of our country's history.



# BAD FRACTIONALS

By

*Rick Melamed*

During the era when fractionals were being issued (1862-1876) the Treasury was constantly looking for ways to thwart the counterfeiters. Personally I always wondered why the forgers would go to so much trouble for such a small amount. Wouldn't it be more productive to counterfeit \$10 notes?

Often when counterfeits are discovered they are stamped a number of ways, including "COUNTERFEIT" or CFT, can even be cancelled with hole punches. But from an eBay auction is a Spinner and Fessenden that are stamped "**BAD.**" Succinct and to the point. Note that the rejected notes have punch outs through the signatures as well.

Kind of makes you chuckle...Not what Michael Jackson was signing about from his big hit from 1987.





# A NEW STANTON PARTIAL SHEET PLATE NUMBER DISCOVERED

By

*Rick Melamed*

Stanton (FR1376) plate number notes are extremely rare; there are now three reverse sheet plate number notes and one inverted “21” obverse seal plate number known to exist. A couple of years ago we presented a Stanton with a partial sheet plate number on the reverse. On the top, a “101” followed by an “L” was discovered.



From an online auction from mid-September 2017, is a newly discovered Stanton fractional with a partial plate number on the upper reverse. These are so rare that its existence needs to be brought to the community. This new example has a little bit more of the plate number than the previous discovery and enough to conclude that both examples shown in this article have a “101” on the back. However, the Stanton shown below has a partial “Q” after the “101”. The font is the same large outline form; and the “Q” is an interesting shape. It would’ve been nice if the upper margin had more of the plate number, but of the 3 examples seen by myself this one has the most plate number shown. Since we have no record of sheet plate numbers used on Stantons, it is impossible to draw any conclusions from such a small sample size. But both notes shown have a “101” followed by different letters. Might there be a string of plate number “101” followed with “A-Z”? Interesting for sure.



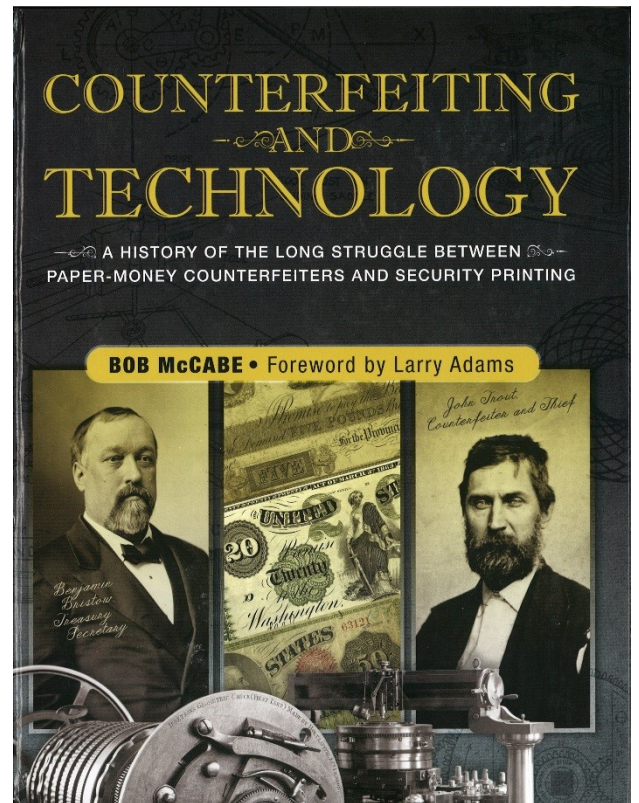
# COUNTERFEITING and TECHNOLOGY

Reviewed By

*Jerry Fochtman*

One cannot have collected postage and fractional currency for very long before stumbling into some 'odd' looking examples. One quickly learns that counterfeiting of paper currency was expanded significantly during this time. Most experienced collectors learn to quickly identify a 1<sup>st</sup> issue 50c with funny/uneven images of Washington, or the more common 'black-eyed' 3<sup>rd</sup> issue 25c Fessenden note. But there's a lot more to this than simply a somewhat talented engraver attempting to duplicate images and print their own money to pass off to the unsuspecting public.

This book by Bob McCabe explores both sides of counterfeiting, from the various players that were developing technology to thwart counterfeiting to those that were practicing the illegal activity. Bob has spent countless hours in traveling and researching this topic, exploring records in libraries, museums, various historical groups and the National Archives putting together this wonderful book. He's tackled this difficult and complex topic and produced a book that is both scholarly from a historical perspective as well as full fascinating information.



The book explains the technical field of mechanical engraving in a way that a layperson can understand and appreciate. He explores the paper and ink chemistries in a manner that you don't have to be a chemical engineer to understand. He also goes into much of the human side of things, exploring the artisans, engravings, politicians and business people that had roles in this cat-and-mouse game.

Fractional currency collectors will be familiar with a number of people he examines in the book, such as Spencer M. Clark, Francis E. Spinner, Stuart Gwynn, William P. Fessenden along with counterfeiters such as Miles Ogle, William E. Brockway and the Secret Service players that tracked them down.

I've found this 480-page treatise to provide a fascinating journey through the background, history and players involved the development of our security printing industry. Indeed, it's become an important part of my research library and I feel a 'must have' for any student of currency history. The book is available from Whitman Publishing, currently listed on their website at \$39.95. Simply use 'counterfeiting' as your keyword search.

